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United Nations

Statistical Commission

Report on the Special Session
(11-15 April 1994)

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 1994
Supplement No.9

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NOTE

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SUMMARY

During its special session, the Statistical Commission considered four main issues: implementation of the revised System of National Accounts (SNA), strengthening international statistical cooperation, fundamental principles of official statistics, and technical cooperation in statistics.

The Commission stressed the importance of developing a plan to carry out the implementation of the 1993 SNA, which it had adopted at its twenty-seventh session, in 1993. The Commission specified steps to be taken by the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat and the other members of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Statistical Office of the European Communities and the regional commissions), to stress the importance of the issue, improve communication among the parties involved, improve management of the implementation process, including preparation of a consolidated work programme, and involve the regional commissions in appropriate ways.

The Commission expressed its appreciation for the progress that had been made on the recommendations and decisions it had made at its twenty-seventh session on strengthening international statistical cooperation and development. It welcomed the strong cooperation that was evident among the international organizations, and endorsed the improved methods of operation that had been introduced and the working relationship that had been developed by the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination and the Subcommittee on Statistical Activities of the Administrative Committee on Coordination. The Commission provided guidance on how these should be improved upon. The Commission stressed the central role of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat in promoting the coordination of international work. It reaffirmed the important role the regional commissions must play as well, and it considered that the mandate of the statistical work undertaken in the regional commissions should be specified in operational terms to enable them to fulfil that role. The work of the inter-agency task forces that had been established in eight specific subject-matter areas (national accounts, industrial and construction statistics, international trade statistics, finance statistics, price statistics, including the International Comparison Programme (ICP), environment statistics, international trade in services and the measurement of poverty) was reviewed, and the Commission gave specific guidance on their future work and priorities. The Commission requested that the task forces keep national statistical offices informed of developments. The Commission also welcomed the work of the international organizations in developing and updating the Inventory of Statistical Data Collection Activities and its use to coordinate data collection and reduce reporting burdens on countries.

The Commission adopted the fundamental principles of official statistics, which had been previously adopted by the Conference of European Statisticians and endorsed in the regions covered by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic Commission for Africa, incorporating a revised preamble. The fundamental principles state, among other things, that official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society and, to that end, official statistics should be made available to honour citizens' entitlement to public information; and that, to retain trust in official statistics, statistical agencies needed to conduct

their work according to strictly professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics. Further, the principles also state that statistical information should be presented according to scientific standards, individual data must be strictly confidential and laws under which statistical systems operate are to be made public. In addition, they state that coordination between statistical agencies within countries was essential, the use of international concepts promoted consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels, and bilateral and multilateral cooperation contributed to improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.

The Commission expressed concern about the decline in funds available for technical cooperation in statistics throughout the United Nations system, as that had seriously affected the statistical work being undertaken in developing countries, especially in the African region. It requested the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations administrative authorities responsible for implementing the new agency support cost arrangements to ensure that the fullest possible consideration be given to continuing needed support services in statistics. The Commission also requested the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat to analyse the crisis in funding of technical cooperation and develop innovative suggestions, a description of the major requirements of the developing countries and an assessment of their priorities.

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Chapter I

MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Draft decision

1. The Statistical Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

DRAFT DECISION

Report of the Statistical Commission on its special session and provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its special session;

(b) Revises the provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-eighth session of the Commission, which was approved by the Council in its decision 1993/222 of 28 June 1993, to read as follows:

Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

   Documentation

   Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session

   Note by the Secretariat on the state of preparation of documentation for the session

3. Strengthening international statistical cooperation.

   Documentation

   Report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination on its seventeenth session

   Progress reports of the Task Forces:

   National Accounts (convener: Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts)

   Industrial and Construction Statistics (convener: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development)

International Trade Statistics (convener: General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade)

Finance Statistics (convener: International Monetary Fund)

Price Statistics, including the International Comparison Programme (convener: Statistical Office of the European Communities)

Environment Statistics (convener: Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat)

Services Statistics (convener: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development)

Measurement of Poverty (convener: World Bank)

Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on its twenty-eighth session

Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on plans in methodological development

Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of statistical data collection from countries

4. National accounts.

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on National Accounts (convener: Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts)

For information

Reports of one or more members of the Task Force

5. Service statistics.

Documentation

Progress report of the Secretary-General on service statistics

Report of the Task Force on Service Statistics (convener: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development)

Report of the Secretary-General on the development of classifications and implementation of the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities, Revision 3 (ISIC, Rev.3) (services part)

Report of the Voorburg Group on a substantive topic

6. Industrial statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on Industrial and Construction Statistics (convener: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development)

Report of the Secretary-General on the development of classifications and implementation of ISIC, Rev.3 (industrial statistics part)

7. Price statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on Price Statistics including the International Comparison Programme (ICP) (convener: Statistical Office of the European Communities)

8. International trade statistics.

Documentation

Progress report of the Task Force on International Trade Statistics (convener: General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade)

9. Finance statistics.

Documentation

Progress report of the Task Force on Finance Statistics (convener: International Monetary Fund)

10. International economic classifications.

Report of the Secretary-General on computerized correspondence tables and functional classifications of expenditure

Report of the Secretary-General on the draft revised Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG)

Report of the Secretary-General on the draft revised Classification of Individual Consumption (COICOP)

11. Monitoring adherence to adopted United Nations classifications.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the present situation and monitoring regarding the adoption of classifications in countries and their relationship to adopted United Nations classifications (and advantages and disadvantages of more flexible standards, classifications and other elements), concentrating in the first instance on classifications for economic activities and commodities

12. Demographic and social statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on demographic, social and migration statistics

Report of the Secretary-General on the 1990 and 2000 World Population and Housing Census Programmes

13. Measuring and monitoring economic and social development.

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on the Measurement of Poverty (convener: World Bank)

Report of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on its work on the development of poverty profiles

Report of the United Nations Development Programme on the measurement of human development

Report of the Secretary-General on the programme to monitor the achievement of social goals

Report on measuring and monitoring economic and social development and aspects of the statistical implications of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade

14. Environment statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on Environment Statistics (convener: Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat)

For information

Reports of one or more members of the Task Force

15. Technical cooperation in statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on technical cooperation in statistics, including an assessment of agency support cost arrangements and the crisis in funding technical cooperation in statistics

Report of Statistics Canada on statistical education and training

16. Technological development and databases.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the development of electronic methods for the compilation and dissemination of international statistics and standards, including meta-data standards for international data exchange

17. Coordination and integration of international statistical programmes.

Documentation

Oral proposals by the Chairman of the Commission concerning membership of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination

18. Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of international statistical work in the United Nations system.

Documentation

See report of the Working Group on its seventeenth session

19. Programme questions and related matters.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General containing updated information on the work of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat

Report of the Secretary-General on the overall review of the statistical work of international organizations in statistics

Report of the Secretary-General on plans of international organizations in statistics

Draft programme of work of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat for the biennium 1996-1997, revised medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, first proposals for the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2003, and information on programme performance during the period 1992-1994

20. Provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission.

21. Report of the Commission on its twenty-eighth session.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

2. The attention of the Council is drawn to the decision of the Commission that, given the special session of the Commission and the enhanced activities of its Working Group, the twenty-eighth session of the Commission should be convened for a period of five working days on a trial basis, and that this decision should be reviewed at that session (see para. 71 below).

3. The attention of the Council is also drawn to the decisions and other recommendations of the Commission (see paras. 7-10, 13, 16, 20, 24, 29, 33, 38, 41, 51, 57, 59, 63, 67, 69 and 71-73).

Chapter II

STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL COOPERATION

4. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 466th to 470th and 472nd meetings, on 10 to 12 and 14 April 1994. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination on its sixteenth session (E/CN.3/1994/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on progress in the most critical areas addressed by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-seventh session (E/CN.3/1994/3);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Subcommittee on Statistical Activities of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) on its twenty-seventh session (E/CN.3/1994/4);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on National Accounts (E/CN.3/1994/5);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Industrial and Construction Statistics (E/CN.3/1994/6);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics (E/CN.3/1994/7);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics (E/CN.3/1994/8);

(h) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Price Statistics, including the International Comparison Programme (ICP) (E/CN.3/1994/9);

(i) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Environment Statistics (E/CN.3/1994/10);

(j) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Statistical Activities of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) (E/CN.3/1994/11);

(k) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Measurement of Poverty (E/CN.3/1994/12);

(l) Report of the Secretary-General on coordination of statistical data collection from countries (E/CN.3/1994/13);

(m) Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening international statistical cooperation; implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (1993 SNA) and programme questions: programme performance and implementation (E/CN.3/1994/16).

5. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the progress that had been made on the recommendations and decisions that it had made at its twenty-seventh

session. It welcomed the strong cooperation that was evident among the international organizations, and endorsed the improved methods of operation that had been introduced and the working relationship that had been developed by the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination and the Subcommittee on Statistical Activities of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), and which should be improved upon.

6. The Commission stressed the central role of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat in promoting the coordination of international work. It reaffirmed the important role the regional commissions must play as well, and considered that the mandate of the statistical work undertaken in the regional commissions should be specified in operational terms to enable them to fulfil that role. The Commission adopted the following text:

> Following recommendation 10 made at its twenty-seventh session, the Commission considered that the present mandate and resources of the regional commissions, in respect of their statistical activities, should be reinforced and better specified in the field of international and interregional cooperation, to enable them to play a more effective role in strengthening the international statistical system.
>
> The Commission suggested that the regional commissions, in acting as the focus of regional statistical development, should, in addition to reinforcing their ongoing activities, undertake the following tasks:
>
> (a) To work together with their member countries in order to establish and monitor the stage of development of the national statistical services, especially in relation to the adoption of international classifications and methodologies and the provision of the corresponding information;
>
> (b) To obtain information from member countries on the limitations of resources and capacities that the national statistical services experience and the fields where technical cooperation is needed;
>
> (c) To offer the meeting of national statistical services of the region as the appropriate forum where member States will exchange their experiences on statistical activities and areas of cooperation, where all agencies working in different fields will discuss their technical assistance programmes, and where the development and implementation of world-wide statistical standards and methods, the development of training strategies and the formulation and implementation of technical assistance programmes will be discussed.
>
> The Commission acknowledged that, in order to play the enhanced role outlined above, the regional commissions need commensurate resources. The Commission, therefore, re-emphasized the need for greater regional involvement in the coordination and strengthening of international statistics and urged the allocation of resources by the appropriate bodies to enable the regional commissions to perform their vital tasks in those areas.

Action taken by the Commission

7. The Commission requested:

(a) The Secretariat to study national and regional experiences, with a view to adapting practices that might be useful in promoting coordination and development at the international level;

(b) Countries and international organizations to improve the network of communications among themselves, particularly through electronic methods, to further promote coordination.

8. As a matter of principle, the Commission reiterated the importance of minimizing duplication or overlap in data collection from countries and of maximizing data-sharing among international organizations. It also emphasized the importance of coordination in related international statistical standards and guidelines, taking due account of differences in national circumstances, particularly in the context of the 1993 SNA.

9. After a wide-ranging discussion on the general work of the task forces, the Commission:

(a) Decided that the task forces should concentrate initially on the coordination of statistical activities across the international agencies;

(b) Suggested that its Working Group should continue to play an active "bureau" role in monitoring and assisting with the work of the task forces;

(c) Encouraged all the task forces to examine closely the work of the relevant agencies on data collection, processing and dissemination, the development and implementation of standards, concepts and methods, the development of directories, inventories and other tasks, and technical cooperation;

(d) Urged the task forces to facilitate the participation of the regional commissions as far as possible;

(e) Requested the Secretariat to compile a single statement of the agreed terms of reference of the task forces;

(f) Requested the task forces to keep national statistical offices informed of developments.

10. It was on this basis that the Commission then reviewed the reports of the separate task forces.

A. Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics

11. The representative of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), as the convener of the Task Force, introduced the report of the Task Force (E/CN.3/1994/7). He also provided updated information arising from the meeting of the Task Force, which took place from 15 to 17 February 1994.

12. The Commission welcomed the significant achievements accomplished by the Task Force, the efficient division of labour that existed among the members, the

clear focus on the mandate, and the task-oriented approach, with clear time-frames for completion of the various tasks.

Action taken by the Commission

13. The Commission endorsed the future work programme of the Task Force, and in particular:

(a) Emphasized the need to assist countries, including countries with economies in transition, to improve their international trade data, particularly by training workshops in those countries;

(b) Encouraged countries to compile and disseminate their international trade statistics according to accepted international concepts and definitions;

(c) Requested the Task Force to provide more extensive descriptions of its outputs in future reports so that countries would know better what was available in that field.

B. Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics

14. The representative of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as the convener of the Task Force, introduced the report of the Task Force (E/CN.3/1994/8).

15. The Commission noted with appreciation the work that the Task Force had so far completed, surveying activities of international organizations in compilation and publication of financial statistics (broadly defined as money and banking, government finance, and balance-of-payments statistics) and reviewing the results of that survey with a number of the national authorities concerned.

Action taken by the Commission

16. The Commission:

(a) Requested the Task Force to give the highest priority to the further assessment of data-reporting arrangements, and to report to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session on the specific improvements undertaken and proposed;

(b) Requested the Task Force to propose to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session other specific tasks it plans to undertake in the next two-year period.

C. Inter-Agency Task Force on Price Statistics, including the International Comparison Programme (ICP)

17. The representative of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT), as the convener of the Task Force, introduced the report of the Task Force (E/CN.3/1994/9).

18. The discussion concentrated on the Task Force's mandate. Most members of the Commission expressed the view that improving coordination of world-wide

consumer price index (CPI) work, especially in the context of the intercountry comparison of rates of inflation, should be the main priority for the Task Force. The Task Force was expected to address the issue by determining current practices, by considering whether existing standards were sufficient and by identifying any problems that might exist.

19. There was considerable discussion about the use being made of the output of the International Comparison Programme (ICP). It was accepted that the ICP methodology was still evolving and needed refinement; significant comments were made, however, about the fact that results were being used even while they were of an experimental nature. It was agreed that there was a need for an objective appraisal and evaluation of ICP, but that that work would be of lower priority for the Task Force and would be undertaken after the CPI component had been dealt with.

Action taken by the Commission

20. The Commission:

(a) Decided that coordination of work on consumer price indices was the first priority of the Task Force;

(b) Agreed that the objective appraisal and evaluation of ICP should remain on the Task Force's work programme but that it would follow the work on consumer price indices;

(c) Requested the Task Force to clarify its work plan and formulate specific actions that were to be achieved before the twenty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission.

D. Inter-Agency Task Force on Industrial and Construction Statistics

21. The representative of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), as the convener of the Task Force, introduced the report of the Task Force (E/CN.3/1994/6). A background paper on the Task Force's survey on adherence to the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) was made available to the Commission, and a member of the Task Force provided an analysis of the results of the survey.

22. The Commission commended the Task Force on the efforts made in reducing duplication among international organizations and the reporting burden on countries in the field of industrial statistics. It also welcomed the work done by the Task Force in monitoring the degree of implementation of ISIC, Revision 3. However, concern was expressed about a number of barriers, such as the lack of coding manuals and commodity listings, encountered by developing countries in implementing ISIC, Revision 3. As a result, the Commission stressed the need for increased collaboration between international organizations, developed countries and developing countries in adopting the change-over.

23. Several countries and agencies expressed concern about narrowing the current phase of work of the Task Force to exclude construction statistics. However, it was accepted that the mandate could not cover the work at the

present time as the resources of the Task Force were fully used. Nevertheless the Task Force was asked how its programme might be expanded.

Action taken by the Commission

24. The Commission:

(a) Endorsed the second phase of the inquiry on country practices;

(b) Requested the Task Force to prepare proposals on expanding its work programme to cover all statistics on the production of goods, except agricultural goods;

(c) Called on the international organizations concerned to give high priority to general documentation, including supporting concordances, product listings and coding manuals, that would assist developing countries in addressing the various conceptual and practical issues faced in implementing ISIC, Revision 3;

(d) Requested the Task Force to prepare a progress report on its work for the Commission at its twenty-eighth session.

E. Inter-Agency Task Force on Environment Statistics

25. The representative of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat, as the convener of the Task Force, introduced the report of the Task Force (E/CN.3/1994/10).

26. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the work of the Task Force - which had been achieved even though it had not been possible to organize a full meeting - including the work done on the planned Directory of Environmental Data. The Commission urged the Task Force members to make every effort to find the necessary resources for a future meeting.

27. The Commission stressed the importance of technical cooperation in environmental statistics and accounting, including the identification of available training facilities.

28. The Commission was of the opinion that the work of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts concerning satellite accounts should be given consideration by the Task Force.

Action taken by the Commission

29. The Commission:

(a) Requested the Task Force, in order to aid the coordination task across agencies, to compile a description of the different programmes and activities carried out in the areas of environmental statistics, indicators and accounting, showing the agencies involved, time-frames, progress, plans and resource constraints;

(b) Recommended that the Task Force draw up an action-oriented work programme based on specific coordination requirements;

(c) Requested the Task Force to report its conclusions and recommendations to the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination and the Commission at their forthcoming sessions.

F. Proposal for an inter-agency task force on services statistics

30. The Chairman of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities introduced the report on the proposal for an inter-agency task force on services statistics (E/CN.3/1994/11).

31. The Commission noted that its Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination had confirmed the establishment of a task force on services statistics, focusing on international trade in services in the first instance. The Commission expressed its appreciation to OECD for agreeing to be the convener of the task force.

32. Several developing countries asked for a group to be set up to examine and consider services industry statistics in view of the emerging nature of that sector in their economies, and the significant problems of measurement and accounting associated with the informal and household sectors specific to those economies. Some delegations, however, referred to the existence of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics and the OECD Group of Experts on Services Statistics, both of which were involved in conceptual and practical matters related to the measurement of services, and suggested that care be taken to avoid duplication of efforts.

Action taken by the Commission

33. The Commission:

(a) Agreed that a task force should be set up, convened by OECD, focusing on international trade in services;

(b) Requested the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat to investigate the best way in which the requirements of the developing countries could be met, and to report to the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities and the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination at their forthcoming sessions. It agreed that, if necessary, a separate group on services in the domestic economy could be established.

G. Inter-Agency Task Force on the Measurement of Poverty

34. The representative of the World Bank, as convener of the Task Force, introduced the report of the Task Force (E/CN.3/1994/12).

35. The Commission discussed a wide range of issues concerning the proposed work of the Task Force. It noted the complexity of the work and the absence of international standards in the area of poverty statistics, but agreed that statistics on poverty were of considerable importance, at both the national and the international levels, in analysis, policy formulation and design of programmes.

36. The Commission noted the need for better coordination of efforts for the collection and publication of statistics on poverty. The Commission considered various alternatives with a view to focusing the work of the Task Force on practical objectives on which progress could be made within one to two years.

37. The Commission welcomed the proposed participation in the work of the Task Force of all agencies involved with poverty issues, including the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Action taken by the Commission

38. The Commission requested the Task Force:

(a) To undertake a review of current practices in the measurement of poverty, with a view to determining the principal approaches, concepts, sources of data and use of poverty indicators, and the degree of data comparability;

(b) To identify international agencies engaged in work on the development of poverty data and consider how their compilation practices, analytical methodologies and dissemination might be better coordinated;

(c) To develop a plan, if feasible, to make further progress in setting international standards;

(d) To report its findings and recommendations to the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination and the Commission at their forthcoming sessions, along with proposals for a further programme of work to assist countries in the measurement of poverty.

H. Coordination of statistical data collection from countries

39. The Commission noted with satisfaction the efforts of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat to reduce the reporting burdens on countries of data collection, through developing and updating the Inventory of Statistical Data Collection Activities. Further, the Commission recognized the need for continued improvement of the Inventory, including the desirability of measuring the reduction of the reporting burden based on the time required for completion of the data requests by countries.

40. The Commission again stressed the importance of an interchange of statistical data through machine-readable electronic means.

Action taken by the Commission

41. The Commission requested:

(a) The Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat to update and improve, on a regular basis, the Inventory of Statistical Data Collection Activities, which was considered to be a permanent coordination tool;

(b) The Statistical Division, in cooperation with the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities, to prepare an updated version of the Inventory, to be submitted to the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination at its 1995 session, after review by the ACC Subcommittee.

Chapter III

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1993 SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS (1993 SNA)

42. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 471st meeting, on 13 April 1994. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination on its sixteenth session (E/CN.3/1994/2);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on National Accounts (E/CN.3/1994/5);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening international statistical cooperation; implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (1993 SNA); and programme questions: programme performance and implementation (E/CN.3/1994/16).

43. The Commission expressed its thanks for the report submitted by the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) and for the excellent work done in completing and publishing the English version of the 1993 SNA. The Commission also thanked all the authors of the 1993 SNA and, in particular, Mr. Peter Hill, one of the principal authors, Mr. André Vanoli, another main contributor to the 1993 SNA text and discussion, and Ms. Carol Carson, for her management and coordination support to ISWGNA during the last critical stage.

SNA questionnaire

44. All members of the Commission welcomed the proposal of designing and implementing one single coordinated international SNA questionnaire for collecting data on the revised basis. The revised questionnaire would be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of ISWGNA and also at the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)/OECD Meeting of National Accounts Experts to be held at Geneva from 27 to 29 April 1994. The Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat should ensure that the proposed new questionnaire was also properly reviewed and discussed by all regional commissions of the developing regions, taking into account in particular the feasibility of developing and transition countries to supply the data requested.

Research agenda

45. Regarding the research agenda proposed in the report to the Commission (E/CN.3/1994/5), there was agreement that further work should continue in that area, but careful consideration should be given not to take resources away from implementation in order to do research. Given the limited resources available, priority should always be given to implementation, but a distinction should be made between research necessary for the implementation of the 1993 SNA (i.e., practical guidelines for the explicit allocation of financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM), distinction between formal/informal activities, primary sector accounts, household sector accounts, environmental accounts, classifications and others) and research for a future revision of the SNA.

Technical cooperation, training and resources

46. All aspects related to technical cooperation and training on the 1993 SNA were very prominent in the discussion, including the limited resources available so far. It was noted that there should be a balanced implementation of technical cooperation and training programmes between transition and developing countries. Bilateral and multilateral assistance should be well coordinated to make the best use of available resources. In addition, regional commissions should play a key role in the implementation of the SNA in their respective regions. The Commission noted that the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat was preparing training materials.

Basic statistics and reorientation of statistical systems

47. Several members of the Commission emphasized the urgent need of further developing and reorienting basic statistics programmes in most countries of the world if they were expected to implement the 1993 SNA. In that respect, the Commission was requested to communicate to countries the importance of the implementation of the 1993 SNA not only for international reporting but also for their own specific policy and analytical needs. The Commission noted that implementation would take time and would differ among countries.

SNA newsletter

48. The Commission welcomed the proposal of creating an SNA newsletter to keep all countries informed of new developments, experience gained in the course of implementation, seminars and workshops and other matters.

SNA publication in other languages and electronic versions

49. The Commission requested that other language versions of the 1993 SNA be published as soon as possible. It also stressed the usefulness of disseminating a CD-ROM and/or diskette version of the 1993 SNA.

Functioning of ISWGNA and accountability

50. Several members expressed strong concern about the future allocation of responsibilities in the implementation process and the consequent lack of normal accountability processes. Other members noted that a clear division of work under the direction of ISWGNA was considered to be more appropriate and feasible.

Action taken by the Commission

51. The Commission requested that:

Communication

(a) In order to stress the importance of the issue, the United Nations Secretariat should formally convey Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/5 of 12 July 1993 concerning the revised SNA to all statistical offices world wide;

(b) As a means of improving communication with all statistical offices about all aspects of the implementation of the revised SNA, the Statistical Division maintains an up-to-date directory, and appropriate meta-data, of all

papers and documents associated with the process, which could be accessed electronically and which could be provided in hard copy to the regional commissions on a quarterly basis; all international agencies involved in the implementation exercise be asked to cooperate fully with the Statistical Division in that endeavour, and the regional commissions be asked to ensure that countries are kept fully informed, as appropriate;

Management

(c) Because of the concern expressed about the future allocation of responsibilities in the implementation process, the Director of the Statistical Division be asked to identify the person/group responsible for the day-to-day management of the implementation process so that normal accountability processes could be put in place;

(d) The person/group responsible for the management of the implementation process be asked to have a consolidated work programme drawn up, in outline at least in the first instance, which encompassed the work of the Statistical Division, the international agencies and the regional commissions for the next 12 or 24 months; thought should be given to developing quickly milestones against which progress could be judged and, in the medium term, an analytical report that matched demand for and supply of technical assistance and training over, say, the next two years so that problems/gaps could be identified;

Regional commissions

(e) The regional commissions be asked to draw up a consolidated statement of the conditions that need to be met for the successful implementation of the revised SNA, in outline at least in the first instance, taking into account their best estimates of the requirements of the countries of their regions for training, technical assistance and the need to develop, or improve, the quality of basic statistical services; the regional commissions be asked to cooperate fully with the development of a consolidated work programme for implementation;

Other

(f) ISWGNA consider how all the knowledge and implications arising from the research work undertaken in the international agencies and in the countries could be consolidated, made available as required, and brought to bear to improve the implementation process and to assist in further developments of the SNA;

(g) ISWGNA be asked to draw up a set of illustrative strategy papers setting out how different groups of countries might go about implementing the revised SNA, taking into account, in general terms, the differing requirements of countries by region, and by their development status, drawing on various studies that might be carried out by countries;

(h) A report on the progress made in implementing these decisions be provided to the forthcoming meetings of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination and the Commission.

Chapter IV

TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN STATISTICS

52. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 472nd meeting, on 14 April 1994. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on technical cooperation in statistics (E/CN.3/1994/14).

53. The Commission welcomed the report as an overview of operational issues that appear repeatedly in the provision and utilization of the United Nations technical cooperation programme in statistics and as a review of the progress and consequences of the new agency support cost arrangements affecting the activities of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat and the regional commissions.

54. The Commission noted that the decline in funds available throughout the United Nations system had seriously affected the statistical work being undertaken in developing countries, especially in the African region. Furthermore, in view of the fact that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) were principal sources of funding support for multilateral technical cooperation in statistics, the Commission noted that the implementation of the new support cost arrangements had adversely affected the ability of the regional commissions and the Statistical Division to provide technical support to countries, including training activities and methodological work associated with technical cooperation.

55. Several participants suggested that innovative ideas for cost-effective action and the careful establishment of priorities at the country level were required in the light of the constraint on resources. Technical cooperation needs at the country level should be identified. In that context, it was noted with regret that the regional commissions, the Statistical Division and, very often, the national statistical offices of the countries concerned, were not represented in the periodic country programming exercises undertaken by UNDP, in which resources were allocated to priority areas. The Commission noted that a number of different approaches to technical cooperation were employed and recognized that no single model seemed applicable to all circumstances.

56. The Commission stressed the importance of the training component of technical cooperation activities and urged increased support for that component, especially in training from one developing country to another, which was very cost-effective. The Commission emphasized the role of the regional commissions and the Statistical Division in promoting the revised SNA through technical cooperation. The specific problems of the countries in transition should also be addressed. The Commission acknowledged the value and the utilization of reliable statistics on the part of policy makers in the developing countries and the provision of technical cooperation on a regional level geared to the specific needs and conditions of the countries of the region by a well-coordinated network of international and national institutions. The importance of bilateral technical cooperation programmes was stressed and the need to incorporate them fully into the network was recognized. The importance of collecting statistics on refugees was also stressed.

Action taken by the Commission

57. The Commission:

(a) Noted, with dismay, the diminished resources available to provide technical support to developing countries;

(b) Requested UNDP, UNFPA and the United Nations administrative authorities responsible for implementing the new agency support cost arrangements to ensure that the fullest possible consideration be given to continuing needed support services in statistics;

(c) Requested the regional commissions and the Statistical Division to provide more information to national statistical offices about the possibilities of making available Technical Support Services - 2 (TSS-2) resources to support the costs of UNDP technical cooperation missions in statistics;

(d) Requested UNDP to give more clear-cut briefings to local UNDP offices and national officials on the use of TSS-2 resources in the light of the limited amount of information that appeared to be available in a number of developing countries concerning that facility;

(e) Emphasized the importance of technical cooperation related to the implementation of the revised SNA and urged that training in that subject be undertaken;

(f) Urged that national statistical offices be associated with the country programming exercises for the determination of technical cooperation needs and priorities whenever possible and that the regional commissions and the Statistical Division also be associated whenever feasible;

(g) Urged the establishment of clear-cut priorities for technical cooperation; and in that regard considered that the preparation of training guides and workbooks, and various forms of training should be given priority;

(h) Requested ECE to circulate to the other regional commissions the minimum programme of statistics developed by the Conference of European Statisticians;

(i) Requested the Statistical Division to provide an analysis of the crisis in technical cooperation, including details of possible funding sources, a canvass of innovative suggestions, a description of the major requirements of the developing countries and an assessment of their priorities - and to provide the first steps of that issue to the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination and the Commission at their forthcoming meetings;

(j) Considered that the regional commissions should be more involved in providing technical cooperation in their regions.

Chapter V

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

58. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 473rd meeting, on 14 April 1994. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination on its sixteenth session (E/CN.3/1994/2);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the fundamental principles of official statistics (E/CN.3/1994/15).

In considering the report of the Working Group on the question (E/CN.3/1994/2), the Commission was informed of the outcome of the Round Table on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in the Countries in Transition, held at Jachranka, Poland, from 26 to 29 September 1993.

Action taken by the Commission

59. The Commission adopted the fundamental principles of official statistics as set out in ECE decision C (47), but incorporating a revised preamble. The preamble and principles, as adopted, are set out below:

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

The Statistical Commission,

Bearing in mind that official statistical information is an essential basis for development in the economic, demographic, social and environmental fields and for mutual knowledge and trade among the States and peoples of the world,

Bearing in mind that the essential trust of the public in official statistical information depends to a large extent on respect for the fundamental values and principles which are the basis of any society which seeks to understand itself and to respect the rights of its members,

Bearing in mind that the quality of official statistics, and thus the quality of the information available to the Government, the economy and the public depends largely on the cooperation of citizens, enterprises, and other respondents in providing appropriate and reliable data needed for necessary statistical compilations and on the cooperation between users and producers of statistics in order to meet users' needs,

Recalling the efforts of governmental and non-governmental organizations active in statistics to establish standards and concepts to allow comparisons among countries,

Recalling also the International Statistical Institute Declaration of Professional Ethics,

Having expressed the opinion that resolution C (47), adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe on 15 April 1992, is of universal significance,

Noting that, at its eighth session, held at Bangkok in November 1993, the Working Group of Statistical Experts, assigned by the Committee on Statistics of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to examine the Fundamental Principles, had agreed in principle to the ECE version and had emphasized that those principles were applicable to all nations,

Noting also that, at its eighth session, held at Addis Ababa in March 1994, the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, considered that the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics are of universal significance,

Adopts the present principles of official statistics:

1. Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the Government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation. To this end, official statistics that meet the test of practical utility are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honour citizens' entitlement to public information.

2. To retain trust in official statistics, the statistical agencies need to decide according to strictly professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data.

3. To facilitate a correct interpretation of the data, the statistical agencies are to present information according to scientific standards on the sources, methods and procedures of the statistics.

4. The statistical agencies are entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.

5. Data for statistical purposes may be drawn from all types of sources, be they statistical surveys or administrative records. Statistical agencies are to choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on respondents.

6. Individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes.

7. The laws, regulations and measures under which the statistical systems operate are to be made public.

8. Coordination among statistical agencies within countries is essential to achieve consistency and efficiency in the statistical system.

9. The use by statistical agencies in each country of international concepts, classifications and methods promotes the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels.

10. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contributes to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.

Chapter VI

COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMMES

60. The Committee considered item 7 of its agenda at its 473rd meeting on 14 April 1994. It had before it the report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination on its sixteenth session (E/CN.3/1994/2).

61. The Commission only considered those elements of the report of the Working Group that had not already been covered under other agenda items.

62. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the work of the Working Group and the contribution that its report had made to the consideration of several items on the agenda of the special session.

Action taken by the Commission

63. The Commission:

(a) Endorsed the proposals for an enhanced role for the Working Group (see E/CN.3/1994/2, para. 21); in particular that the Working Group "could address some current and evolving issues which might otherwise be addressed by the Commission, and so provide more timely direction to the work of international organizations, giving the Commission additional time to consider other major issues";

(b) Decided that the Working Group at its seventeenth session should comprise:

(i) Officers of the Statistical Commission at its special session:

Chairman: J. Olenski (Poland)

Vice-Chairmen: H. Montero (Argentina)
R. Thamarajakshi (India)
D. Diangamo (Zambia)

Rapporteur: W. McLennan (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

(ii) Representatives of States members of the Statistical Commission:

H. Kudo (Japan)
P. Kallaa (Kenya)
C. Jarque (Mexico)
Y. Yurkov (Russian Federation)
K. Wallman (United States of America)

(iii) Alternates selected from representatives of States members of the Statistical Commission:

G. Chirumbura (Botswana), alternate to D. Diangamo (Zambia)
M. Ferrao (Brazil), alternate to C. Jarque (Mexico)
S. Ahmad (Pakistan), alternate to R. Thamarajakshi (India)
R. Booth (Jamaica), alternate to H. Montero (Argentina)
N. Ghemires (Morocco), alternate to P. Kallaa (Kenya);

(c) Noted that the Working Group would hold its seventeenth session in New York from 6 to 9 September 1994 and endorsed the proposed agenda as amended by the Commission during its special session.

Chapter VII

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Programme performance and implementation

64. The Commission considered item 8 (a) of its agenda at its 473rd meeting on 14 April 1994. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening international statistical cooperation; implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (1993 SNA); programme questions: programme performance and implementation (E/CN.3/1994/16).

65. The Commission noted with satisfaction the work done by the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat during the biennium 1992-1993. It was noted, however, that although the format of the progress report was self-contained, clarifications were needed for certain items.

66. The view was expressed that human settlements statistics should be given more attention in the future work of the Statistical Division, particularly in the light of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

Action taken by the Commission

67. The Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General providing information on the progress of the work of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat and requested the Statistical Division to prepare a similar report for the Commission at its twenty-eighth session;

(b) Requested that more visibility be given to important new outputs of the Statistical Division such as the CD-ROM version of the Statistical Yearbook.

B. Programme objectives and planning

68. The Commission considered item 8 (b) of its agenda at its 473rd meeting, on 14 April 1994. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General entitled "Programme questions: programme objectives and planning" (E/CN.3/1994/17).

Action taken by the Commission

69. The Commission took note of the possible new approaches to programme planning to be adopted in the United Nations.

Chapter VIII

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

70. The Commission considered item 9 of its agenda at its 473rd meeting, on 14 April 1994. It had before it a note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for its twenty-eighth session (E/CN.3/1994/L.3), which was orally amended in the light of suggestions and decisions made by the Commission at its special session.

Action taken by the Commission

71. The Commission:

(a) Requested the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination to (i) review the agenda and documentation carefully, (ii) adjust and restructure the agenda as necessary to allow the Commission to accomplish its essential business within five days, (iii) determine the documents or agenda items that should be for discussion or for information only, (iv) ensure that the documentation, in quantity, structure, focus and timeliness, is such as to support the efficient working of the Commission and (v) address some current or evolving issues that otherwise would have to be addressed by the Commission (see para. 63 (a) above);

(b) Requested the Secretariat in future to prepare self-contained reports, in so far as it was possible;

(c) Requested the Working Group, in cooperation with the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities, and together with the International Statistical Institute, to prepare a programme for a suitable commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of statistical work in the United Nations system in association with the twenty-eighth session, and to explore the feasibility of a commemorative publication as well; requested those bodies also to explore the possible establishment of a world statistics day.

72. Subject to final review by the Working Group, the Commission generally approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its twenty-eighth session, amended at its present session. The Commission recommended that its twenty-eighth session be held in New York from 27 February to 3 March 1995.

73. Also at the same meeting, the Commission decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council the approval of the revised provisional agenda and documentation for its twenty-eighth session (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision).

Chapter IX

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

74. The Statistical Commission held a special session at United Nations Headquarters from 11 to 15 April 1994. The Commission held nine meetings (466th to 474th).

75. The session was opened by the temporary Chairman, Mr. Miguel Cervera Flores (Mexico).

76. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis and the Director of the Statistical Division addressed the Commission.

B. Attendance

77. The session was attended by all 24 States members of the Commission, Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and observers for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended. A list of participants is given in annex I.

C. Election of officers

78. At its 466th meeting, on 11 April 1994, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Jozef Olenski (Poland)

Vice-Chairmen: Héctor Eduardo Montero (Argentina)
R. Thamarajakshi (India)
David Diangamo (Zambia)

Rapporteur: William McLennan (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

D. Agenda and organization of work

79. At its 466th meeting, on 11 April 1994, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/CN.3/1994/1. The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Strengthening international statistical cooperation.
4. Implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (1993 SNA).
5. Technical cooperation in statistics.

6. Fundamental principles of official statistics.

7. Coordination and integration of international statistical programmes.

8. Programme questions:

   (a) Programme performance and implementation;

   (b) Programme objectives and planning.

9. Provisional agenda for the twenty-eighth session of the Commission.

10. Report of the Commission on its special session.

80. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of the work of the session (E/CN.3/1994/L.1).

E. Documentation

81. The documents that were before the Commission at its special session are listed in annex II to the present report.

Chapter X

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

82. At its 474th meeting, on 15 April 1994, the Commission considered the draft report (E/CN.3/1994/L.4 and Add.1-8).

83. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report, as amended during the discussion.

Annex I

ATTENDANCE

Members

Argentina:	Héctor Eduardo Montero, Renato C. Sersale di Cerisano,* Oscar A. Avalle*
Australia:	I. Castles, R. W. Edwards*
Botswana:	G. M. Chirumbura
Brazil:	Maurício de Souza Rodrigues Ferrao, Ronaldo Costa Filho,* Tereza Cristina Nascimento Araujo,** Marcia de Castro Faria Graça Melo**
China:	Long Hua, Chen Quangen*
Czech Republic:	Edvard Outrata, Olga Betikova,* Karel Zebrakovsky*
France:	Jean-Pierre Behmoiras, Jean-Louis Bodin*
Germany:	Hans Guenther Merk, Waltraud Moore,* Monika Ottemeyer**
Ghana:	Oti Boateng, Kwaku Attakorah*
India:	R. Thamarajakshi, Arun K. Singh*
Jamaica:	Roland Booth
Japan:	Hiroyasu Kudo, Nobuhiko Kosuge,* Kimiaki Yamashita,* Masato Aida,* Eiichi Tanabe,* Fumio Momose,* Makoto Maeya**
Kenya:	P. P. Kallaa
Mexico:	Carlos M. Jarque, Miguel Cervera Flores,* Mario Palma Rojo,* Alfredo Bustos de la Tijera,* José Robles Aguilar**
Morocco:	Naima Ghemires
Pakistan:	S. Ahmad
Poland:	Jozef Olenski, Jolanta Szczerbinska,* Wojciech Ponikiewski*
Russian Federation:	Y. A. Yurkov, A. V. Zverev, A. A. Klochko,* N. I. Tokmachev,* Y. N. Isakov,* M. E. Savostianov*

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* Alternate.

** Adviser.

Spain:	Jose Quevedo, Carmen Arribas,* Ana Menendez*
Sweden:	Jan Carling, Chris Denell*
Ukraine:	Mykola I. Borysenko, Yuriy O. Petrovsky,* Ihor V. Houmenny*
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:	William McLennan, John Pullinger,* Tony Williams,* Victoria Harris**
United States of America:	Katherine K. Wallman, Suzann Evinger,* Carol S. Carson,** Hermann Habermann,** Thomas Dunlavey,** Hugh T. Dugan**
Zambia:	David S. Diangamo

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Canada, Cuba, Hungary, Italy, Micronesia, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Turkey

United Nations bodies

United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations University, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, secretariat of the International Civil Service Commission

Specialized agencies and GATT

International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

Intergovernmental organizations

Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT), Inter-American Development Bank, League of Arab States, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, South Pacific Commission, World Tourism Organization

Non-governmental organizations

Category II: Data for Development, International Statistical Institute, International Union for the Scientific Study of Population

Roster: International Association for Research in Income and Wealth

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMISSION AT ITS SPECIAL SESSION

Document symbol	Agenda item	Title or description
E/CN.3/1994/1	2	Provisional agenda
E/CN.3/1994/2	3, 4, 6, 7	Report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination on its sixteenth session
E/CN.3/1994/3	3	Progress in the most critical areas addressed by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-seventh session: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/1994/4	3	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Subcommittee on Statistical Activities of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on its twenty-seventh session
E/CN.3/1994/5	3, 4	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency Task force on National Accounts
E/CN.3/1994/6	3	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Industrial and Construction Statistics
E/CN.3/1994/7	3	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics
E/CN.3/1994/8	3	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics
E/CN.3/1994/9	3	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Price Statistics, including the International Comparison Programme (ICP)
E/CN.3/1994/10	3	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Environment Statistics
E/CN.3/1994/11	3	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Statistical Activities of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

Document symbol	Agenda item	Title or description
E/CN.3/1994/12	3	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Measurement of Poverty
E/CN.3/1994/13	3	Coordination of statistical data collection from countries: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/1994/14	5	Technical cooperation in statistics: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/1994/15	6	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the fundamental principles of official statistics
E/CN.3/1994/16	3, 4, 8 (a)	Strengthening international statistical cooperation; implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (1993 SNA); programme questions: programme performance and implementation: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/1994/17	8 (b)	Programme questions: programme objectives and planning: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/1994/L.1	2	Organization of the work of the session: note by the Secretariat
E/CN.3/1994/L.3	9	Provisional agenda for the twenty-eighth session of the Commission: note by the Secretariat
E/CN.3/1994/L.4 and Add.1-8	10	Draft report of the Commission